

FIGHT NOW RAGING
MAY PROVE ONE OF
WAR'S GREATEST

British and French Armies
Seemingly Ready for
Renewed Attack.

MONDAY IS THEIR DAY
TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVES

Allied Guns Blazing Way for In-
fantry With Bombardment
of Great Intensity.

MAY FORCE NEW RETIREMENT

Break at One of Danger Points
Would Mean Something Like
Disaster for Teutons.

One of the biggest battles of the
war, possibly of a decisive nature,
apparently is in progress in Northern
France.

The British, after a week's slashing
attack, ceased on a few days ago in
their offensive, giving way to the
French, who started on Monday with a
magnificent rush, pushing back the
German front as much as four miles
in some places, all along the Aisne, and
well into the Champagne region. Within
the last day or two they have also
let down somewhat in the intensity
and scope of their attack.

Now both armies seemingly are
ready for a renewed attack, if
indeed they have not already begun it.
The signs were not wanting in Satur-
day's German official statement, where
naturally indications of it might be
looked for rather than in the British
or French official reports.

"Friday afternoon strong artillery
firing was commenced along the whole
River Aisne front, and also in the
Champagne," said the Berlin communi-
cation. From this the assumption
seems warranted that the French guns
are blazing a way for the infantry
with a bombardment of great intensity.
Should a break be effected by General
Nivelle at any one of the numerous
danger points for the Germans on this
front, something approaching a disaster
for which would be a further en-
forced retirement.

As for the British, the Berlin report
also indicates that they are about to
resume their drive in the Arras battle.
All the way from Loos north of Lens,
down to the Arras-Cambrai railway line
the British guns began to increase
the intensity of their fire Friday.

The northern end of the Hindenburg
line, it may be judged, is about to
suffer another hammering.

ARTILLERY ACTIVITY
AT MOST POINTS

The artillery activity is reported
more intense near Arras, south of St.
Quentin, and on the Aisne and Cham-
pagne fronts in the regions of Soissons
and Rheims. German guns are
replying to the entente fire at some
points.

During the two weeks of the Anglo-
French offensive on the northern and
southern sectors of the center of the
battle line in France, the Germans lost
more than 32,000 prisoners and 320
guns larger than machine guns. Mon-
day of each of the last two weeks has
seen the beginning of a new offensive
by one of the entente armies, and the
heavy artillery duels of the last two
days may be the forerunner of a new
thrust against the battered German
line. Gradually, the French have ad-
vanced toward the Chemin-des-Dames,
the road from Fort Malmaison to Hur-
tebise, and paralleling the Aisne, and on
Saturday they made progress north of
Sancy, near the western end of the
road. French barrage fire broke up
four German attempts to attack near
Braye-en-Laonnais, east of Sancy, and
south of the Chemin-des-Dames. In
Champagne, only artillery activity is
reported.

British artillery also repulsed a Ger-
man attempt to recapture the village
of Gonnelle, southwest of Cambrai,
taken by the British on Friday night.
Northwest of Lens the British pushed
forward, and east of Cambrai along
the north bank of the Scarpe, the Ger-
mans were driven back.

VIOLENT ARTILLERY
FIGHTING REPORTED

PARIS, April 21.—Violent artillery
fighting between the Somme and the
Oise, particularly south of St. Quentin,
is reported in the official communi-
cation issued by the War Office to-night.
The number of German prisoners taken
by the French and British troops since
the beginning of the present operations
is placed at more than 32,000, and the
guns at 330.

FRENCH MAKE NEW GAINS
IN GRENADE FIGHTING

PARIS, April 21.—French troops made
further gains last night in grenade
fighting south of Valenciennes and east
of Courcy. A German attack against
Mont Haut failed, the War Office an-
nounces.

The artillery was very active over
the front of the French offensive. The
battle of guns raged with particular
violence east of Craonne and north of
Rheims.

The statement follows:
"North of the Aisne, the artillery
fighting was active in the regions of
Nanteuil-le-Posse and Hurtebise. We
took 100 more prisoners yesterday on
this part of the front.

"East of Craonne and north of
Rheims, the night was marked by vio-
(Continued on Second Page.)

Two German Destroyers
Sunk in Raid on Dover

LONDON, April 21.—While at-
tempting a naval raid on Dover, at
least two, and possibly three, Ger-
man destroyers were engaged and
sunk yesterday by two vessels of the
Dover patrol, according to an
Admiralty announcement, which fol-
lows:
"The vice-admiral at Dover re-
ports that on the night of April 20
five German destroyers attempted a
raid on Dover. The raid resulted in
their firing a number of rounds into
a plover field a few miles from Dover.
The enemy appears then to have
steered in the direction of some of
our shipping, possibly with the
intention of attacking, but was met
by two vessels of the Dover patrol.
"In five minutes these two vessels
engaged and sank at least two, pos-
sibly three, out of the five enemy
boats, the remainder making off at
high speed during the short en-
gagement, escaping in the darkness.
"Our vessels suffered no material
damage, and our casualties were ex-
ceedingly slight in comparison with
the result obtained."
A later report by the Admiralty
gives the number of Germans saved
as ten officers and 108 men.

GRAVE LABOR TROUBLES
MENACE GERMAN EMPIRE

Great Strikes Threaten to Cripple
Nation Industrially as an
Active Belligerent.

REBELLION RIFE IN HUNGARY

News Dispatches From Two Teutonic
Countries Startle Europe—Gen-
erally Believed That Situation Even
Is Worse Than Reported.

LONDON, April 21.—Rebellion is rife
in Hungary, while Germany is in the
throes of the gravest labor troubles
witnessed in the empire since the out-
break of the war—troubles which are
menacing the stability of the monarchy
and threatening to cripple her industri-
ally as an active belligerent.

News dispatches to this effect startled
Europe to-day. The dispatches came
from responsible, well-trusted corre-
spondents, and in circles where the
closest touch has been maintained with
the conditions in the two Teutonic em-
pires not the slightest doubt is enter-
tained that the news is accurate. Many
believe that the situation is even worse
than reported, notwithstanding the
fact that Berlin this afternoon officially
denied that there had been any riots
or street fighting, asserting that the
strike was "already settled."

On the contrary, he said yester-
day, everything points to a voluntary
offering of the draft by the Virginia
Navigation Company to the command-
ing of the Norfolk Navy-Yard in order
that the steamers might be withdrawn
from the James River service and put
to more lucrative use. The boats are
now engaged in hauling supplies for the
navy-yard.

Senate bill No. 1757, which would
authorize the government to requisition
river craft, was reported on April 18,
and still awaits the action of the Sen-
ate. At the instance of Mr. Garnett,
Senator Swanson, the patron, has
agreed to qualify his bill with an
amendment reading as follows:
"No vessel, steamboat, tug or other
water craft which is engaged in pub-
lic service on the inland waters of the
United States shall be leased, chartered
or taken over for use or operation
by the government under the provisions
of paragraphs 'a' and 'b' of this act
unless and until all other vessels, tugs,
lighters, barges and other water craft
which are available for the same pur-
pose shall have been exhausted."

Mr. Garnett went over the situation
with Senator Swanson in detail, and the
latter agreed that the discontinuance
of the river service would be disastrous
to the communities which are depend-
ent on it and are without railway ser-
vice to fall back upon. Representatives
Carter Glass, E. E. Holland, W. A.
Jones and A. J. Montague took the
same view, and agreed to support the
amendment.

The Old Dominion Steamship Com-
pany owns and operates a line of
steamers from Norfolk to the Moblack
Bay section, having wharves on the
East, North, Ware and Severn Rivers,
as well as on Moblack Bay, and is the
sole means of transportation of this
section. It also owns the Virginia Na-
vigation Company, which owns the Poc-
ahontas and Smithfield. Prior to last
Monday, steamers were operated daily
from Norfolk to Smithfield and return,
and three times a week each way be-
tween Norfolk and Richmond and in-
termediate landings.

Under the order of April 14, the day
service between Richmond and Nor-
folk and Norfolk and Smithfield was
discontinued entirely. In addition to
this, the daily service to the Moblack
Bay section has been cut in half and
(Continued on Fifth Page.)

"LAND OF THE SKEIN"
W. A. JONES, NORTON, VA.
Apply SOUTHERN RAILWAY for attractive
booklet on delightful Summer Resorts
in the beautiful section. Office, 95 East
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For sale, Timber on 2,500 acres of land,
one to four miles distant. About 1,500
more acres, plus Oak, other timber and
cane. Address Dr. T. H. Davis, Oxford,
N. C.—Adv.

SERVICE ON RIVER
MUST BE RESTORED

Corporation Commission Acts on
Withdrawal of Virginia Navi-
gation Company Boats.

WERE NOT REQUISITIONED

Merely Rented to Norfolk Navy-
Yard at Profit, Says Chair-
man Garnett.

Pointing out that there is at this time
no statute authorizing the government
to requisition steamers engaged in such
service as has been performed by the
Virginia Navigation Company on the
James River, the State Corporation
Commission yesterday entered an order
directing that company within two days
to restore its day service to James
River landings which was discontin-
ued on April 16.

The entering of the order followed
the return of Chairman Christopher B.
Garnett, of the State Corporation Com-
mission, from Washington, where he
went Friday to inquire into the rea-
sons for discontinuing the James River
day service. An examination of the
statutes brought to light the fact that
the only measure under which the Vir-
ginia Navigation Company's steamers
could be requisitioned was introduced
by Senator Swanson on April 16, and
has not yet been passed the Senate.

WITHDREW SERVICE
BEFORE BILL WAS OFFERED

On April 14, two days before Sen-
ator Swanson's bill was introduced, the
Virginia Navigation Company publish-
ing a notice, signed by E. E. Bain, as-
sistant general manager, and approved
by H. B. Walker, president, reading as
follows:
"Owing to the fact that the govern-
ment has requisitioned both the steamers
Pocahontas and Smithfield, the ser-
vice heretofore performed by the Vir-
ginia Navigation Company to and from
James River landings, will be with-
drawn at once. No freight or passen-
gers will be handled by this company
after Monday, April 16, 1917."

On Monday the service was discon-
tinued and hard on the heels of it came
bitter complaints from James River
landings between here and Norfolk and
Norfolk and Smithfield. For the most
part, these landings are without rail-
road facilities and wholly dependent
on the steamers for the marketing of
their products and for their mails. The
night steamers do not stop at the land-
ings, and these points were left sud-
denly without transportation facilities.

GARNETT DENIES BOATS
HAVE BEEN REQUISITIONED

Chairman Garnett wrote at once to
H. B. Walker, president of the steam-
ship company, in New York, demand-
ing an explanation of the discontinu-
ance of the service and suggesting
that steps be taken at once to put
other steamers in the service to replace
the two that had been withdrawn. Mr.
Walker replied by letter that the
steamers Pocahontas and Smithfield
have been requisitioned by the govern-
ment, and that the company has no
other craft with which to replace them.

According to Mr. Garnett, there is
nothing, as far as he can learn, to
indicate that the government has re-
quisitioned the two James River steam-
ers. On the contrary, he said yester-
day, everything points to a voluntary
offering of the draft by the Virginia
Navigation Company to the command-
ing of the Norfolk Navy-Yard in order
that the steamers might be withdrawn
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ARMY BILL FIGHT
BEGINS THIS WEEK

Way Cleared in Senate for Unin-
terrupted Consideration
of Measure.

TWO REPORTS GO TO HOUSE

Minority for Selective Draft; Ma-
jority Urges Trial of Vol-
unteer System.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Presi-
dent Wilson's fight to organize a wartime
army, in accordance with the advice
of the War Department and the army
general staff, will begin in earnest on
Monday in both houses of Congress.

In the Senate to-day the administra-
tion bill, supported by Senator Cham-
berlain, chairman of the Military Com-
mittee, and a majority of his com-
mittee associates, was formally started
on its way to a vote. There was some
debate, parliamentary tangles were dis-
posed of, and the way was cleared for
uninterrupted consideration of the
measure.

In the House, both the majority and
minority reports were presented by the
Military Committee, and the bill will
come up on Monday, with Representa-
tive Kahn, ranking Republican member,
leading the committee's minority fight
for the administration's plan un-
amended, while Chairman Dent, head-
ing the majority of the committee,
directs the opposition urging trial of
a volunteer system before resorting to
the selective draft of the War Depart-
ment plan. The minority report, signed
by eight members of the committee,
rests for authority on a letter from
Secretary Baker to Chairman Dent, de-
claring the opinion that any com-
promise on the department's plan
"would be attended by unfortunate re-
sults."

MAJORITY REPORT
SIGNED BY TWELVE

The majority report, signed by Chair-
man Dent and eleven others, says, in
part:
"The bill authorizes, but does not
direct, the President to issue a call
for a volunteer army of 500,000 in the
first place, and of an additional force
of 500,000, if necessary, under the law
now in existence.

"The bill further authorizes the
President to proceed at once with the
registration of all male citizens be-
tween the ages of twenty-one and
forty, as provided in the plan of the
War Department for a draft.

"It will require, according to the
testimony of the Secretary of War be-
fore the Military Committee, at least
three months and probably longer to
complete. . . . In the meantime, if the
President sees fit, he is authorized to
call for volunteers, and upon the com-
pletion of the registration he has the
absolute power to decide whether he
will take an army of volunteers or
organize by draft.

"Both the volunteer and the draft
features of the bill authorize the Presi-
dent to refuse to accept either by en-
listment or draft the services of per-
sons needed in the industrial pursuits
of the country."

BAKER'S LETTER FINAL
PLEA OF MILITARY BRANCH

Secretary Baker's letter, included in
the minority request, was written as a
final plea for the military branch of
the government in behalf of the admin-
istration bill. It has a deep conviction
that any compromise of the prin-
ciples governing the bill submitted by
the department for the raising of a
new army would be attended by un-
fortunate results," he wrote. "The
drafting provision starts at the outset
a process by which the forces of the
country can be called as they shall be
needed, according to an equal and just
system, and it has these merits:

"1. It spreads the burden of military
preparation equally throughout the
United States.

"2. It is certain in its operation, so
that after the registration is made,
every man in the country will know
whether he is to be called and when
he is to be called upon, allowing those
who are not to be called, or whose call
is postponed, to continue their normal
pursuits undisturbed by uncertainty as
to their status, and unguilted by neigh-
borhood pressure or ostracism.

"3. It starts at the beginning of the
accumulation of these new forces, and
has none of the character of a penalty
which attaches to the draft when it is
used after volunteering has been tried
and failed.

"I have studied every report I can
secure of the use of the volunteer sys-
tem abroad and in our own country,
and I believe it to be true that in
every place where it has been tried,
whatever success it has had, has been
due to a system of compulsions more
harassing and almost as drastic as
the provisions of a law itself."

THE VIRGINIA SENATORS
TO SUPPORT DRAFT PLAN

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Senators
Martin and Swanson, of Virginia, to-
day authorized the announcement that
they will support the administration's
emergency army bill containing pro-
vision for a selective draft system. The
announcement of the Virginians was
made as a result of unfounded re-
ports in their State to the effect that
they were antagonistic to the mea-
sure. The statement authorized by them
is as follows:

"The two Virginia Senators will sup-
port the administration measure for
raising an army. They have both au-
thorized the statement that they have
never at any time contemplated antag-
onizing the policy of the administra-
tion in respect to the matter."

WARSAW, April 21.—The municipal
elections in Lodz have resulted in a
great triumph for the Jews. Twenty-
two of their candidates for the Com-
mon Council have been elected.

The Poles, although they form near-
ly 60 per cent of the population, only
succeeded in electing twenty-one Al-
dermen, and these belong to five dif-
ferent factions. Ten of the elected
Poles represent the National People's
party, five the Centrist, or Catholic
party; two the Business Men's Federa-
tion; two the Citizens' party and two
the Social Democracy. The seven other
Aldermen elected are Germans, and
hold the balance of power in the mu-
nicipal legislative body.

TRIUMPH FOR JEWS

Municipal Elections in Lodz Result
in Twenty-Two Hebrews on
the Common Council.

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BRITISH ENVOYS
SAFE IN AMERICA

Governors of States Asked to Send
Delegates to Discuss Co-Operation

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Govern-
ors of all States were asked by the
Council of National Defense to-day
to send representatives to Washing-
ton on May 2 for a conference on
measures of State co-operation in
the conduct of the war. Military
affairs and the food situation will
be the most important questions
taken up.

The Governors also were request-
ed to send as delegates the heads of
State defense councils where they
have been created. The national
council hopes, it was announced,
that all the States will have named
councils by the time the meeting
is held. Thirteen already have been
established.

The conference will be opened at
the War Department by Secretary
Baker as head of the defense coun-
cil. Definite recommendations will
be presented to the State executives
concerning co-ordination of defense
work throughout the land.

The defense council will propose
that all State bodies have uniform
organizations, and that defense coun-
cils be formed in counties and
localities.

Commissions will be sent by the
United States to nations of the en-
tente only where there is some defi-
nite end to be accomplished, and
not generally, as a matter of formal
courtesy. At present, definite plans
are being made only for a mission
to Russia, although it is possible
that one will be dispatched to
France, and to other countries, if
necessary.

The commission to Russia, which
the President is now choosing, will
be entirely political, economic and
financial in character, since there is
no present plan for active naval and
military co-operation with that na-
tion.

Charles B. Crane, of Chicago,
business man and personal friend
of the President, who is due to re-
reach Petrograd soon, will co-op-
erate with the commission. Former
Secretary of State Elihu Root is
being most seriously considered as
chairman.

WOMEN OF D. A. R. ENLIST
IN SERVICE FOR NATION

Every Member of Organization Must
Enter into Trades of United
States Loyalty Force.

WILL STOP AT NO SACRIFICE

Standing Committees on War Relief
Work, to Be Responsible to Na-
tional Council for Defense, Or-
dered Established in Every State.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—One hun-
dred and thirty thousand patriotic
American women were to-day mustered
into trades of the United States
loyalty force. Recommendations for
service from the National Council of
Defense were adopted in the closing
session of the twenty-sixth congress
of the Daughters of the American Revo-
lution. By the adoption of this mea-
sure, every member of the organization
is actually enlisted in some sort of
work for the nation.

With a slight tremor in her voice,
but governed by a constant poise, Mrs.
William Cunningham Story, presi-
dent, called upon "her daughters"
to make every sacrifice, even "to divid-
ing the last bushel with the allies,"
to help this nation prosecute a success-
ful war against Germany, for "the
preservation of the land for which our
forefathers gave their blood and their
lives."

Response to the appeal of the presi-
dent-general was spontaneous. From
every corner of the great congress hall
came the eager cries of women seek-
ing to pledge themselves and the wom-
en they represent to the aid of the
United States. Standing committees on
war relief work to be responsible to
the National Council of Defense were
ordered established in every State in
the Union, and in the colonies.

Funds, to be disbursed at the direc-
tion of the National Council of Defense,
were ordered created in each State.

Conservation of food was made im-
perative upon every member of the na-
tional society. "Let us win this war
in the kitchens of the land," was the
slogan adopted on every hand.

A committee on national service was
organized to direct the efforts of the
Daughters of the American Revolution in
every measure of relief work.

Cultivation of waste lands was voted.
Every daughter will have it as her
duty to see that all lands are under
cultivation.

Purchase of war bonds by those
financially able, and the sale of the
bonds by others, was urged.

These closing moments of the con-
gress were the most inspiring of the
entire week's session, and American
womanhood came forward in a monster
patriotic demonstration, such as has
seldom been seen in this land before.

It was dusk and the rosy rays of a
sun, sinking over the Potomac, fell
across the stately columns of Memorial
Hall when a page walked
into the hall and handed Mrs. Story
two canceled bonds—significant of the
canceling of the debt on the building.

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BALFOUR PARTY,
HEAVILY GUARDED,
ON WAY TO CAPITAL

Received With the Highest
Honors at Some Un-
named Port.

WELCOME TO U. S. MARKED
BY UTMOST CORDIALITY

Members Begin Informal Conversa-
tions as Soon as Special
Train Starts.

COME IN SPIRIT OF SERVICE

English Foreign Minister Outlines
General Hopes and Purposes
of Conference.

WITH THE BALFOUR PARTY, April
21.—Great Britain's high commis-
sioners to the International War Council,
to begin in Washington next week set
foot on American soil to-day, and now
are on their way to the Capital.

Arthur James Balfour, Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs of the em-
pire, formerly Premier, and often called
the dean of the world's elder states-
men, was the central figure of a party
that included some of Great Britain's
most prominent men. With a genial
smile playing over his features, he
consented to a brief interview, warm-
ly expressing his appreciation of all
the United States has done as a neu-
tral in charitable and relief work in
Belgium, and in German prison camps,
his gratification that England and the
United States now were allies for a
common purpose, and his conviction
that this country in its war efforts
would astound the world, particularly
Germany.

The object of the commission, Mr.
Balfour said, was "to make co-opera-
tion easy and effective by those who
are striving with all their power to
bring about a lasting peace by the
only means that can secure it; namely,
a successful war."

"Your President, in a most apt and
vivid phrase," Mr. Balfour added, "has
proclaimed that the world must be
made safe for democracy; that self-
governing communities are not to be
treated as negligible, simply because
they are small; that the ruthless domi-
nation of one unscrupulous power im-
perils the future of civilization and the
liberties of mankind are truths of po-
litical ethics which the bitter experi-
ence of war is burning into the souls
of all freedom-loving peoples."

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